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DECLASSIFIED P&L 23-9 Libya

Department of State **TELEGRAM**

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ACTION SS-70

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY 068975 DATE 12 JUL 1982
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. IN EXAMINING ITS APPROACH TO NEW REGIME IN LIBYA DEPARTMENT WILL HAVE BEEN AS MUCH IMPRESSED AS WE HAVE BEEN BY DELIBERATE OBSCURITY WITH WHICH LEADERSHIP OF COUP HAS BEEN CLOAKED AND BY CONSEQUENT NEED ON OUR PART FOR CAUTION IN ASSESSING ITS FUTURE COURSE, ASSUMING IT IS NOT DISLODGED, ON BASIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND THOSE TO MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. IT SEEMS FAIR TO ASSUME REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) CONTAINS FAIRLY BROAD SPECTRUM OF PERSONALITIES. WE BASE THIS ASSUMPTION ON STATEMENTS BY RCC WHICH ASSERT ON ONE OCCASION ITS "SOCIALIST" CHARACTER, ON ANOTHER ITS "LIBERAL" CHARACTER, AND ON STILL ANOTHER ITS "NONIDEOLOGICAL" CHARACTER. ALL WOULD APPEAR TO POINT TO AMBIVALENCE WITHIN RCC ITSELF REGARDING NATURE OF ITS REVOLUTION.

2. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD BE REASONABLE FOR ANY EXTREMIST ELEMENTS WITHIN RCC TO SEEK ISSUE WHICH COULD BE USED TO PUSH RCC INTO RADICAL, "ANTI-IMPERIALIST," "ARAB" STANCE. ONE SUCH ISSUE WOULD BE U.S. DELIVERY OF PHANTOMS TO ISRAEL, SHOULD THEY BE MADE THIS MONTH. WHILE WE FULLY APPRECIATE THAT U.S. INTERESTS HERE ARE ONLY PART OF AREA INTERESTS WHICH DEPARTMENT MUST WEIGH, BELIEVE ANY PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ARRIVAL OF PHANTOMS, EITHER FROM U.S. OR ISRAELI SIDE, COULD GIVE ANY RADICALS WITHIN RCC EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMAND DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST U.S. INTERESTS LIBYA WHICH SUCH MODERATE ELEMENTS AS MAY EXIST WITHIN RCC WOULD FIND DIFFICULT TO RESIST FOR FEAR OF LOSING THEIR ARAB CREDENTIALS.
BLAKE

Tripoli 2144 9/2/69

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